Approximate expenditure incurred by Railway for repair of flood affected bridges during this year is Rupees 1.2 Crore.

Regional imbalance in B.G. conversion

1737. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is still a lot of regional imbalance and injustice in the conversion of Meter gauge into Broad gauge particularly for Tamil Nadu;

(b) the corrective steps taken in the allocation of funds adequately on the one side and speedy execution of the scheme by fixing time frame on the other; and

(c) by when the Broad gauge conversion from Madurai to Rameswaram *via* Manamadurai on the one side and from Trichy to Manamadurai on the other will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No. sir.

(b) The outlay for projects in particular State is done based on a transparent formula having weightage of 15% each for area and population of the State and 70% for throwforward of projects in the State. Project-wise allocation is based on progress of the project, its priority and overall availability of resources.

A number of initiatives have also been taken to augment resources for expediting completion of the ongoing projects. These include sharing by State Governments, Public/Private Partnership, funding from Ministry of Defence, additional resources for National Project of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla and non-budgetary initiatives for National Rail Vikas Yojana. Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana has also been announced in 2004-05 which envisages investment of about Rs. 20,000 crore in next five years. However, the funds for the Yojana are yet to be tied up. With these efforts, it may be feasible to expedite the progress of ongoing projects. In view of severe resource constraints and heavy throwforward of ongoing projects, it is not feasible to fix time schedule for all the projects.

(c) On Madurai-Rameshwaram (161 kms.) gauge conversion project, Madurai-Manamadurai (48 kms.) section is targeted for completion during 2004-05 and the remaining Manamadurai to Mandapam section during 2005-06. Gauge conversion of Tiruchchirappalli-Manamadurai will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Projects under construction

†1738. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 113 projects are under construction at present;

(b) if not, the exact number thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that out of these projects 62 are such for which no time limit for completion has been fixed; and

(d) if so, what are the names of these projects and the total amount spent on their construction till March, 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) At present there are 240 ongoing projects under the Planheads, New Line, Gauge Conversion, Doubling, Railway Electrification and Metropolitan Transport.

(cj and (d) There are 73 projects of which no Section has been completed/targeted for completion so far. The names of these projects alongwith the total amount spent on their construction till March, 04 are given in the enclosed Statement.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.